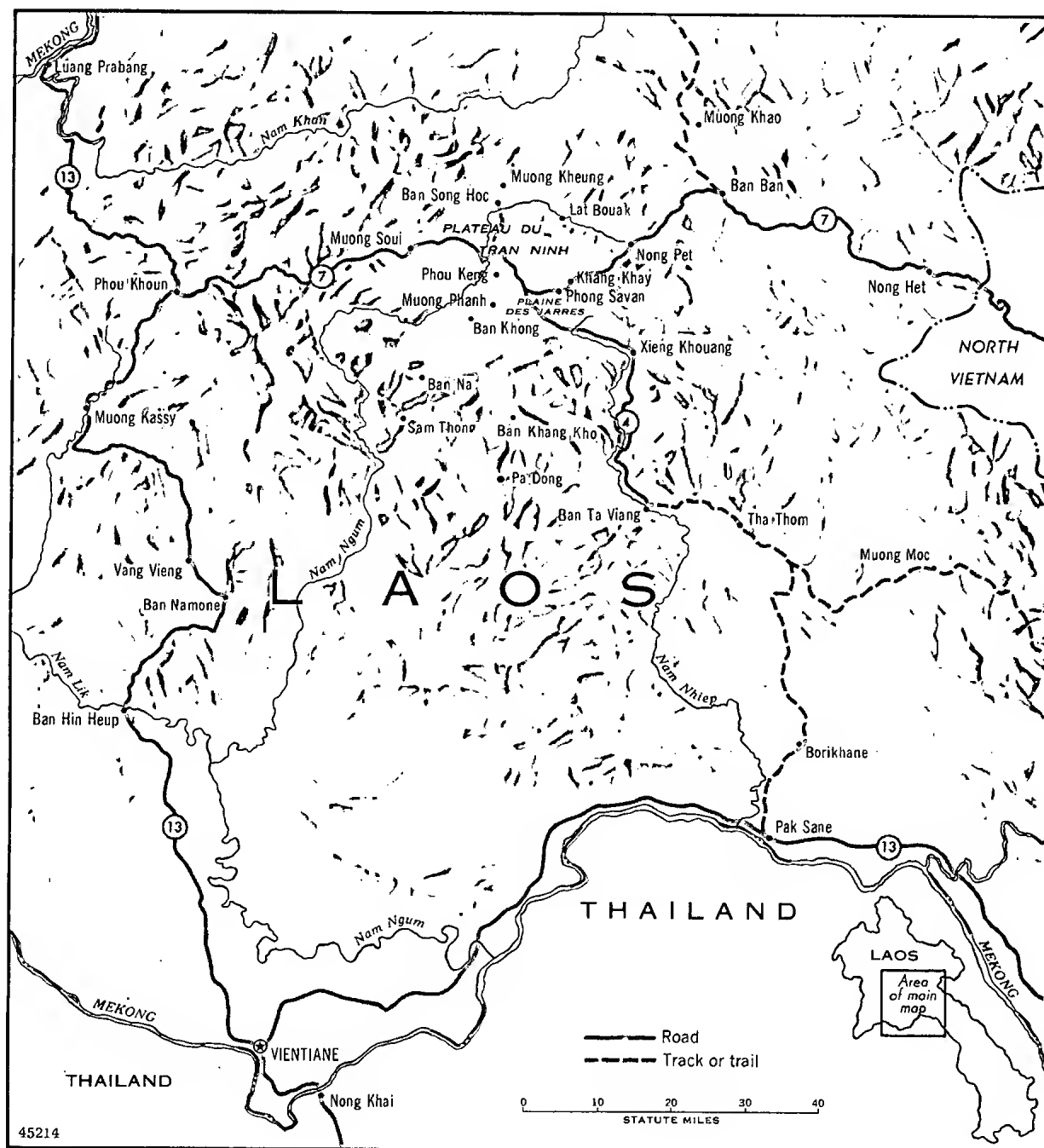


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

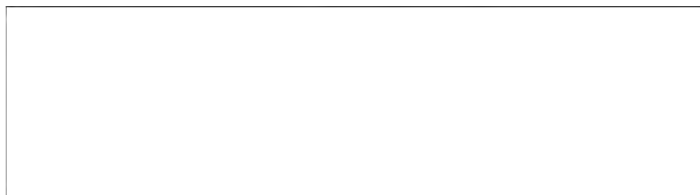
23 MAY 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. Moscow has now formally asked London to join in summoning another 14-nation conference at Geneva in June.



50X6

c. Pakistan's Bhutto, who is in London, felt obliged to add his two rupees' worth by proclaiming to a press conference that no political settlement is possible in Southeast Asia without Chinese Communist participation. He said there was a complete vacuum in Laos and Vietnam.

d. There was no significant military action yesterday on the Plaine des Jarres. Both sides are consolidating.



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50X1

e. Meo leader Vang Pao has credited the recent T-28 strikes south of the Plaine with heading off a Communist assault on his mountain strongpoint at Pa Dong.



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2. North Vietnam -
Laos

a.
 Communist forces in Laos are getting supplies by air from North Vietnam.

50X1

b. Aerial photography taken on 24 April showed one LI-2 transport on the ground at an airfield in Pathet Lao territory. We think it was a Vietnamese plane.

c. Communications patterns on recent flights out of Hanoi imply that many transports were in the air longer than required to reach their destinations in North Vietnam, quite long enough to have flown into Laos and back.

d. This fits in with charges recently made by a neutralist officer that the North Vietnamese were airdropping supplies to Pathet Lao forces north of Vang Vieng, who have been cut off from overland support since the spring of 1962.

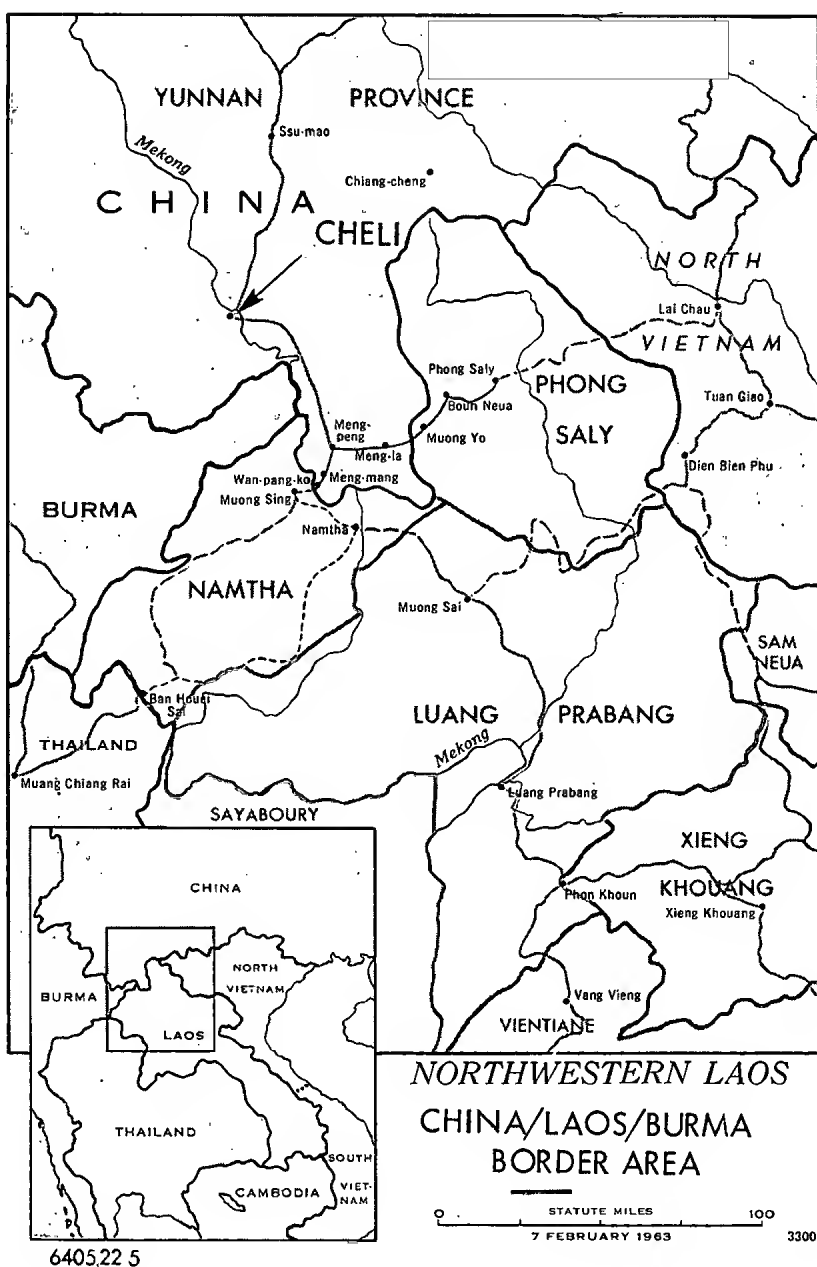
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3. Communist China

a. The Chinese are pushing road and rail projects which will give them much easier access to their frontiers with Laos and Burma.

(Cont'd)

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b. Peiping announced yesterday that a bridge over the Mekong at Cheli, just across the Burma border in Yunnan, will soon be finished. Aerial photography confirms that work on the Cheli bridge, which will be able to carry heavy military traffic, was well advanced in late March.

c. Final work on the rail line which will link Kunming with the main Chinese network to the north is also getting high priority. When it is finished, the Chinese will no longer have to use the rickety rail route through North Vietnam to reach Kunming.

d. The Chinese have already built large barracks installations in this area which can house many more troops than are now garrisoned there.

50X1

4. Congo

a. The two Congos seem more and more preoccupied with plotting each other's downfall.

b. Leopoldville, irate over recent acts of sabotage it blames on exiles based in Brazzaville trying to overthrow Adoula, is of a mind to strike back.

(Cont'd)

c. Leopoldville will probably have to rely on sabotage, however, since it is all its army can do to cope with the rebels at home.

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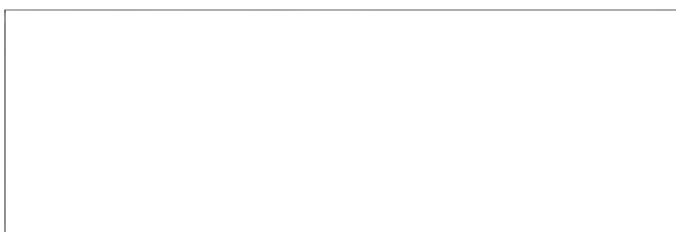
d. Brazzaville will be quick to pin the blame on Adoula for whatever happens there, and then on the US as ultimately responsible for Leopoldville's actions. The already strong leftist elements in the Brazzaville regime will profit most from any trouble.

5. USSR

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NOTES

- A. British Guiana Expanding racial violence has now led the British governor to declare a state of emergency. In response to his request for additional British troops, London has dispatched one company and put additional units on alert.
- B. Maphilindo Special emissary Lopez claimed in Kuala Lumpur this morning that agreement had been reached on a summit meeting in Tokyo during the first week of June. The Tunku has told his parliament that--according to Lopez--Sukarno has accepted "most of" Malaysia's terms for the meeting. Thus the possibilities for slips are as great as ever.
- C. Italy - Communist China Nenni's Socialists are sending their top foreign affairs expert to Peiping next week for an "official exploratory" visit. The main purpose seems to be to blunt criticism from the Communists and dissident Socialists of Nenni's acquiescence in the government's decision against recognition of China. The government is playing the mission as a private Socialist Party venture, but it will nonetheless give ammunition to the enemies of the "opening to the left."
- D. Cuba The military alert seems to have been relaxed a bit, although it remains in effect. In a fire-eating speech last night, Raul Castro for the first time told the Cuban public about it.

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(Cont'd)

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E. USSR-Egypt Khrushchev apparently plans to top off his goodwill visit to Egypt with a \$220 million credit for Nasir's development plan. The size of the loan, which will cover equipment and services in the heavy industry field, is about what we thought would come from the aid talks carried on while Khrushchev toured.

F. USSR

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50X2
50X1

G. France

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50X1

H. South Korea The political situation remains basically unstable despite a lull in the power struggle within the regime since 11 May when Chong Il-kwon's new cabinet was installed. Students again demonstrated against normalizing relations with Japan on Wednesday, but failed to arouse much popular support. A subsequent attempt by paratroops to interfere with court proceedings against the demonstrators is blowing up into another crisis.